

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Status of the Claims

Claims 23, 24, 27 and 29-32 are pending in this application, with Claim 24 being the only independent claim. Claims 25, 26, 28, 33-36, 39, 50 and 52 are cancelled herein without prejudice or disclaimer. Claim 24 is amended herein to incorporate the features of Claim 28. Claims 23, 24, 27, and 29-32 are amended herein to more clearly recite their subject matter, without narrowing the scope of the invention. It is submitted that no new matter has been added by the amendments herein.

Substance of Interview

Applicants thank the Examiner for the courtesy of the telephone interview conducted on May 21, 2003. In the interview, the Examiner confirmed that there was no art rejection against Claim 28 in the May 8, 2003 Office Action, only the § 112, first paragraph rejection. The Examiner also noted that the Section 112, first paragraph rejection could be overcome if the preamble were amended to terminology such as "An imaged recording medium" or "An ink-jet imaged recording medium".

Section 112 Rejection

Claims 23-32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as allegedly not being enabled by the specification. Without conceding the propriety of this rejection, to expedite prosecution, Claims 23-32 have been amended herein to even more clearly recite the presence of the recording medium. It is respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

Rejections and Cited Art

Claims 24-27, 30, 33-36, 39, 50 and 52 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly anticipated by, or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly obvious over, Miyabayashi (EP 0 900 831). Claims 23-27, 29-36, 39, 50 and 52 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly obvious over Miyabayashi. Applicants respectfully disagree with these rejections as applied to the present claims.

The present invention, as recited in Claim 24, relates to an ink-jet imaged recording medium comprising a colored portion. The colored portion comprises aggregates of fine particles, each of the fine particles having a coloring material thereon by adsorption in a monomolecular state. The coloring material is anionic or cationic. The fine particles have a polarity opposite to that of the coloring material. In Applicants' view, the cited references do not teach or suggest the claimed invention.

The ink disclosed in Miyabayashi comprises a colorant and fine particles of a polymer. Miyabayashi has not been cited as teaching or suggesting the features of Claim 28, which are now recited in independent Claim 24. Accordingly, Applicants conclude that the present invention is patentable over Miyabayashi, and that these rejections should be withdrawn.

The Examiner has requested that Applicants clarify the record regarding the disclosures of Takahashi, et al. '740, Takahashi et al. '484, Kurabayashi et al. '210, Ono et al. '045, Shimomura EP '950 and Shirota et al. '249. Applicants respond as follows.

Takahashi et al. '740 discloses that the colorant and the low molecular weight cationic substance form aggregates, and then the aggregates adsorb to a cationic polymer substance which may be a latex or emulsion. Shirota et al. '249 discloses that anionic dyestuff in the ink reacts with a metallic coordination compound in the liquid composition to form a lake which is then adsorbed by a water-soluble polymer, which may be a latex, in the liquid composition to form a macro-aggregate. Shimomura et al. EP '950 discloses that a giant, water-insoluble aggregate is formed in the form that the cationic substance (which may be a polymer in latex or emulsion form) in the liquid composition is bonded to the water-soluble polymeric compound in the ink via the anionic dye.

In Takahashi et al. '484, Kurabayashi et al. '210, and Ono et al. '045, there is no description that the polymer with which the colorant forms aggregates may be a latex or emulsion.

Applicants therefore conclude that the cited references do not teach or suggest at least the feature of the present invention that the coloring material is adsorbed onto the surface of the fine particles in a monomolecular state.

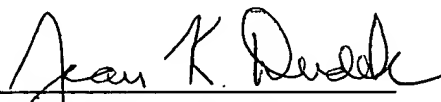
Applicants submit that the present invention is patentably defined by independent Claim 24. The dependent claims are allowable for the same reasons as independent Claim 24, as well as for the patentable features recited therein. Individual consideration of the dependent claims is respectfully requested.

Applicants submit that the instant application is in condition for allowance.

Favorable consideration, withdrawal of the rejections and issuance of an early Notice of Allowance are respectfully requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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